
FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

By Mattie Mendoza

Q: What is the new way to get an FBI federal background check?

A: The new system is called the FBI Fast Pass System. The fingerprint process is electronic and much easier and faster than the previous process. First, contact any L1 Identity Solutions location either by phone or online and pay the fee upfront with a credit card or an electronic check. Then go to the closest L1 Identity Solutions site to have your fingerprints taken electronically. You may visit the L1 Identity Solutions website at www.iisfingerprint.com for more information on this technique.

The federal background check results are sent electronically directly to our EMS office in one to two weeks versus the 16 to 18 weeks the FBI's website now states is the processing time for the current paper fingerprint card process. The electronic process is now being used for all out-of-state reciprocity applications.

Q: Once I have my National Registry card, am I automatically state certified as well?

A: No. The National Registry and state of Texas EMS certification are two separate certifications. You are only legal to work in Texas if you have attained state of Texas certification. To attain state of Texas EMS certification, you must submit an application, pay the appropriate fee and meet all other initial certification requirements,

including taking the National Registry exam. You can find all of the requirements for initial state of Texas certification on the EMS/Trauma Systems website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/CertInfo.shtm>.

The National Registry has its own application process and does *not* submit your state certification application for you (although it will electronically send test results to the state office). For information about National Registry or to schedule your exam, contact the National Registry or view their website at http://www.nremt.org/about/nremt_news.asp.

Q: What is the difference between EMT-P and licensed paramedic certification?

How can I apply for licensed paramedic certification?

A: The difference between the two levels of certification is a college degree. According to Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §157.40(1), a currently certified EMT-Paramedic may apply for a paramedic license if the candidate has at least one of the following degrees from an institution of post secondary education that has been accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an approved accrediting authority:

1. an associate degree in emergency medical services (EMS);
2. a baccalaureate degree; or
3. a postgraduate degree.

You can find all of the requirements for EMT-P and licensed paramedic certification on our website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/default.shtm or contact our office at (512)834-6700.

Q: What is the number I am given at the end of the electronic application process, and do I need to keep it?

A: Yes! That number is commonly referred to as the *trace number*. It is your **only** proof that you submitted your application and paid the application fee. You will only receive a trace number if you complete the electronic application process. The trace number, which will begin with the numbers 537, is the only way for EMS Certification to retrieve your electronic application. If you do not save or write down your trace number, you have no proof that you ever submitted an electronic application or paid the fee. Despite this small extra step, electronic application submission is favorable for many reasons: It cuts out mail time so applications reach the EMS office faster, you can pay with either an electronic check or credit card, it's safe and secure and it's available to you 24 hours a day.